

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listing, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

Claim 1 (currently amended) A method of speech encoding, comprising:

(a) determining bandpass voicing levels for a frame of speech;  
(b) determining a zero-phase equalization filter for said frame wherein harmonics which fall into a band that was determined to have a voicing level below a threshold in step (a) are replaced for said zero-phase equalization filter, wherein the equalization filter is only applied to the harmonics recognized as voice.

Claim 2 (original) The method of claim 1, wherein:

(a) said determining bandpass voicing of step (a) uses the frequency bands 0-500 Hz, 500-1000 Hz, 1000-2000 Hz, 2000-3000 Hz, and 3000-4000 Hz.